of those killed and seriously injured in road accidents in Delhi pending as on 1st January, 2006;

(b) the number out of those which are more than three years old;

(c) the reasons for slow progress of these cases; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite such cases as inordinate delay in the disposal of such cases causes immense hardship to the concerned, particularly those belonging to the weaker sections of society ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) 4197 Court cases relating to payment of compensation in respect of persons killed and 7980 Court cases in respect of those injured in road accidents in Delhi were pending as on 1st January, 2006. Out of these cases, 2930 cases relating to death and 6204 cases relating to injury were pending for more than three years as on 1.1.2006. The high Court of Delhi has informed that two Fast Track Courts — one at Tis Hazari and the other at Rohini — have been set up to expedite disposal of old cases.

Initiative to contain naxalism

2656. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh strategy or initiative have been taken by Government to counter the challenge posed by the naxalite organizations especially in the North-Eastern part of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No significant report about threat posed by the naxalites in the North-Eastern region have been received so far.

(b) and (c) The Government have clearly defined the policy to combat the challenge posed by naxalites, which *inter alia* includes dealing sternly with the naxalites indulging in violence, to address this menace simultaneously on political, security, development and public perception

management fronts in a holistic manner, coordinated response to counter naxalism, sustained Police action against naxalites and their infrastructure, peace dialogue only if naxalites abjure the path of violence/arms, to wean away youth from the path of naxal ideology, accelerated socio-economic development of the backward areas and regular interaction with NGOs, promotion of local resistance groups against naxalites, use of mass media to highlight the futility of naxal violence, etc. The Central Govt. will continue to supplement the efforts and resources of the affected States on both security and development fronts and bring greater coordination between the States to successfully tackle the problem.

Criteria for declaration of classical language

2657. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued notification regarding criteria for declaration of classical language;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government intend to declare Kannada as classical language in view of its rich culture and heritage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following criteria have been laid down for according classical status to a language:—

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.

(ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.

(iii) The literacy tradition be original and not borrowed from another speech community.

(iv) The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.

(c) The proposal to declare Kannada as classical language is under consideration of the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted by the Government.